Mandatory use of Solar Water Heater System

715. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government wants to make it mandatory for all public buildings like hospitals, offices, etc. to have compulsory solar water heater system;

(b) if so, what steps Government have proposed to propagate this policy;

(c) whether any discussions are being held with the State Governments to bring about a consensus on this idea; and

(d) the details of such discussions held with State Governments on wider use of solar heaters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) In April, 1994, the Ministry of Urban Development requested the Governments of States/Union Territories to consider issuing suitable directives to the local bodies under their control for modifying the building bye-laws with a view to making the installation of solar water heating systems mandatory in hotels and hospitals in the commercial sector. In order to assist the local bodies, a model regulation/bye-law has been drafted and sent by the Department of Urban Development, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment in April, 1999 to all State and Union Territory Governments for circulation to urban local bodies under their control. The model regulation/bye-laws, when incoiporated by the local bodies in their existing building bye-laws, will make it mandatory for the following categories of buildings to have solar water heating systems:

(i) Hospitals & Nursing Homes
(ii) Hotels, Lodges, and Guest Houses
(iii) Hostels of Schools, Colleges, Training Centres
(iv) Barracks of armed forces, paramilitary forces and police
(v) Individuals Residential Buildings having more than 150 sq. mt. plinth area

(vi) Functional Buildings of Railway Stations and Airports like waiting rooms, retiring rooms, rest rooms, inspection bungalows and catering units.

(vii) Community Centres, Banquet Halls, Barat Ghars, Kalyan mandaps and buildings for similar use..

In order to promote the wider use of solar water heating systems among institutional and individual users, financial and fiscal incentives like soft loans and accelerated depreciation benefits are being provided. Loans are being provided at low interest rates to individuals through six banks.

(c) and (d) The subject has been discussed several times in the meetings Of the State/Union Territory Governments taken by the Ministry. As a result of these meetings and further interaction, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli have made installation of solar water heaters mandatory in functional buildings in the state sector. Also on the basis of the requests received from State/UT Governments, the coverage of the banks providing soft loans for solar water heating systems has been extended. Support is being given to state renewable energy agencies to organize business meets and workshops to promote this concept further.

Producing Energy Items

716. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are maintaining any laison with the private sector which is involved in producing solar lamps, solar water heater, solar pumps and other items connected with solar energy;

(b) are there any units based in Andhra Pradesh involved in the solar energy field;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any effort has been made to coordinate the policies of other departments to explore the use of solar energy items; and

(e) the steps proposed to increase interest of hospitals, rural water supply programmes and irrigation departments on the benefits of using solar energy in details?